

## 2 Timothy 1:7

### *“The Spirit of Victory”*

#### Intro.

#### I. **Written 66/67 A.D.; Roman prison during Nero’s reign – 2 Tim. 1:8; 4:6-8**

##### A. Who was Nero?

- 1) *“He is best known for his debaucheries, political murders, persecution of Christians and a passion for music.”*
- 2) 5<sup>th</sup> emperor of Rome & great, great grandson of Caesar Augustus.
  - a) Took the throne approx. 20 yrs. after Christ’s death at age 16 reigning from 54-68 A.D. Committed suicide at the age of 30.
  - b) Reign came through a plot of his mother, Agrippina, marrying her uncle, Claudius, to appoint Nero as the successor to his reign.
    - i) Nero & his mother had been banished from the city by her brother, Caligula = Caligula was Nero’s uncle.
    - ii) Nero had his mother banished & eventually murdered due to her opposition of an illicit affair of Nero.
- 3) Blamed Christians for great fire of Rome in A.D. 64.
  - a) It was no secret Nero wanted to rebuild the city in his likeness & wanted to bypass opposition from the Senate.
  - b) Had Christians arrested, tortured & murdered as presumed punishment for the great fire of Rome.

##### B. ***Great significance of the context; historical back drop of Paul’s letter to young Timothy...***

#### Body

#### I. **2 Timothy 1:7 – “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”**

##### A. Spirit of fear

- 1) Spirit = the inner most depths
- 2) Fear (Gr.) = cowardice; timidity; (not the same as meekness; the cowardly lion; not the meekly lion).
  - a) ***God has no interest in cowards – Joshua 1:9; Heb. 10:38***
  - b) Fear of the future; the uncontrollable; the unknown; the known:
  - c) Sometimes the things that spawn our greatest fear is knowing what's coming. For Timothy, a young pastor:
    - i) Challenges of his people – 1 Tim. 1:3-11
    - ii) Challenges of his message – 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:1-5
    - iii) Challenges of his age – 1 Tim. 4:12

B. God has not given us... = where then does it come from???

- 1) *Why is fear one of satan's favorite & most effective tactics?*
  - a) **Fear paralyzes** – paralyzed Christians produce no fruit for God & pose no threat to the enemy.
  - b) **Fear distracts** – distracted Christians are enamored with the focal points of our enemy/this world. satan revels in piling on the myriad of concerns of this world in our hearts & minds to keep us focused on things other than God, His truth & His purpose – 2 Tim. 2:4; Col. 3:1-2...*esp. when we intentionally set out to seek God.*
  - c) **Fear discourages** – discouraged Christians give up the fight; discouragement & fear are the eviction notices of faith; when faith is removed, we are left with nothing but despair & a despondent outlook on the future: *“What's the point?”* 1 Kings 19:9-10; Acts 20:17-24; 2 Tim. 4:7
    - i) *“When hopelessness overrides your faith, your eyes become blinded to reality.” – Tony Evans*

II. How do we overcome & defeat fear?

- A. **Remember its origins:** *“I have not given you the spirit of fear”* – John 8:44.

**B. Remember God's truth:** "...but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." – John 8:31-32; 10:10

- 1) Power (Gr. Dunamis) = miraculous force, strength or might – Opposite of powerless; weakness – Rom. 8:11
- 2) Love (Gr. Agape) – 1 John 4:18 – Opposite of hate – 1 John 2:9-17; 3:14-15; Eph. 4:31-32; Prov. 10:12
- 3) Sound mind (Gr.) = discipline; self-control; saving the mind through admonishing & calling to soundness of mind & self-control – Opposite of worry – Phil. 4:6.

**C. Remember (recall) God's action in the past** – Ex. 13:3; Deut. 5:15; 8:2; 15:15; 24:18; Ps. 63:6-7; 77:10-12; 143:5; Eccl. 12:1; John 14:26